

What we claim is:

1. A powder coating composition comprising:

at least one powdered polymer; and

a metal oxide having a mean particle size of less than about 25 microns.

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2. The powder coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide has a mean particle size of less than about 15 microns.

3. The powder coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide is selected  
10 from the group including silica, alumina, ceria, germania, titania, zirconia, zinc oxide, and mixtures thereof.

4. The powder coating composition of claim 3 wherein the metal oxide is fumed silica.

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5. The powder coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide is present in the composition in an amount ranging from about 0.05 to about 3 wt%.

6. The powder coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide is present  
20 in the composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 0.5 wt%.

7. The powdered coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide includes at least one modifying agent.

8. The powder coating composition of claim 7 wherein the modifying agent is selected from light hydrocarbons, ammonia, water, gases and mixtures thereof.

9. The powder coating composition of claim 1 wherein the metal oxide is treated  
5 with a hydrophobing agent.

10. The powder coating composition of claim 9 wherein said hydrophobing agent is selected from the group consisting of: organopolysiloxanes, organosiloxanes, organosilazanes, organosilanes, halogenorganopolysiloxanes, halogenorganosiloxanes,  
10 halogenorganosilazenes, halogenorganosilanes, and mixtures thereof.

11. The powder coating composition of claim 10 wherein said hydrophobing agent is a dimethyldichlorosilane, trimethoxyoctylsilane, hexamethyldisilazane, polydimethylsiloxane, and mixtures thereof.

12. A powder coating composition comprising:  
from about 99.5 to about 99.9 wt% at least one powdered polymer; and  
from about 0.1 to about 0.5 wt% of the reaction product of fumed silica and  
hexamethyldisilazane having a mean particle size less than 10 microns.

13. The powdered coating composition of claim 12 wherein the fumed silica further includes a volatilizable agent.

14. A powder coating composition comprising:

at least one powdered polymer; and  
the non-deammoniated reaction product of at least one metal oxide and hexamethyldisilazane.

5           15.    The powder coating composition of claim 14 wherein the metal oxide has a BET surface area of between about 50 m<sup>2</sup>/g and about 400 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

          16.    The powder coating composition of claim 14, wherein the metal oxide has a mean particle size between about 0.05 μm to about 200 μm.

10           17.    The powder coating composition of claim 14 wherein the metal oxide is selected from the group including alumina, ceria, germania, silica, titania, zirconia, zinc oxide and mixtures thereof.

15           18.    The powder coating composition of claim 17 wherein the metal oxide is silica.

          19.    The powder coating composition of claim 18 wherein the silica is fumed silica.

20           20.    The powder coating composition of claim 14 wherein the metal oxide is reacted with from about 0.5 to about 40.0 wt% hexamethyldisilazane.

          21.    The powder coating composition of claim 14 wherein the non-deammoniated reaction product of at least one metal oxide and hexamethyldisilazane is present in the composition in an amount ranging from about 0.1 to about 2.0 wt%.

22. The powder coating composition of claim 14 wherein the non-deammoniated reaction product of at least one metal oxide and hexamethylsilazane is present in the composition in an amount ranging from about 0.5 to about 1.0 wt%.

5 23. A powder coating composition comprising:  
from about 98 to about 99.9 weight percent of at least one powdered polymer;  
and

from about 0.1 to about 2.0 weight percent of a flatting agent that is non-deammoniated reaction product of from about 80.0 to about 99.9 weight percent fumed silica  
10 and from about 0.1 to about 20.0 weight percent hexamethyldisilazane.

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